

# News from Ed Markey

United States Congress

Massachusetts Seventh District

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Markey Statement on the Sunset of the Assault Weapons Ban**

**Washington, D.C.** - Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Malden) released the following statement regarding the sunset of the ban on semiautomatic assault weapons:

“After a deadly summer in the streets of many of our cities, Republicans refuse to lift a finger to keep dangerous assault weapons out of the hands of criminals. Despite the fact that crimes perpetrated with assault weapons have dropped 66 percent since passage of the assault weapons ban, the Republican Leadership has ignored calls for extending the ban. This may be good news for terrorists and others up to no good, but it’s bad news for our children, families and police officers.

“Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist claimed earlier this week that it is the ‘will of the American people’ that the assault weapons ban fade into the sunset. But public opinion tells a different story. As recently as December 2003, an NBC News/Wall Street Journal poll found that 78 percent of adults nationwide support renewal of the Assault Weapons Ban.

“While President Bush says he would sign an extension of the ban, he refuses to do anything to encourage Republicans in Congress to send the bill to his desk for his signature. Most Americans believe these weapons should be banned, and President Bush will be hearing from them at the polls in November.”